Powers to Zila Parishads

2710. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state ;

(a) whether some powers have been given to Zila Parishads to improve condition of rura areas of country;

(b) if so, the details thereof with names of Zila Parishads, State and Territory-wise enjoying such powers;

(c) whether Government propose to make an increase in the powers of such Parishads in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) to (d) As per the provisions contained in the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992, the Legislature of the States may, by law endow the Panchayats, including the Zila Parishads, with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and such law may contain provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayat at the appropriate level, subject to such conditions as may be specified therein, with respect to (a) the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice; and (b) the implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to the matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule.

Thus, it is for the State Legislatures to give more powers to Zila Parishads to improve condition of rural areas, as Panchayats is a State subject.

Migration from rural areas to Urban areas

2711.SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of people migrating, each year, from rural areas to urban ares in the country;

(b) the total number of such people having migrated to urban areas till date during the last three years;

(c) what steps Government would take to protect the economic interests of such under-priviledged/downtrodden people; and

(d) the average per capita income of such rural people as compared to the rural population for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) : (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL) : (a) and (b) As per 1981 census rural-urban migrants increased from 23.95 millions to 34.20 millions during the decade 1971 – 81. As per TCPO estimates, about 46.62 millions people were living in the slum areas of the country in 1991.

(c) The Government has taken various stept both preventive and curative to alleviate the economic conditions of the under-priviledged downtrodden people living in urban slums. Under preventive measures, the Government has launched several self-employment and wage-employment programmes in the rural areas for people below the poverty line.

Nehru Rojgar Yojana launched in 1989 has been designed to assist the unemployed under-employed youths in taking up emplo-ment ventures, creation of useful assests, and provision of Employment for persons involved in housing and building activities in the slim areas.

The scheme of Environmental Improvement of urban Slums (EIUS) is in operation since 1972 in all urban areas. The scheme envisages to provide minimum basic amenities/facilities like water supply, community baths, community latrines, sewer, storm water drains, widening and paving of existing lanes and provisions of street lighting. The scheme is a part of State Sector and a sum of Rs. 525 per capita is allocated by the Planning Commission under State Sector allocations.

Besides, the scheme of Urban Basic Service for the poor envisages child development provision of learning opportunities for women and children and community organisation for slum population inter-alia comprising of environmental sanitation, primary health, pre-school learning, vocational training and covergence of other social services at the slum level.

(d) The average per capita income for rural migrants to urban areas is not available separately. However, according to the latest available estimates for 1980-81 the per capita income was Rs. 1245 in rural areas and Rs. 280 in urban areas at current prices.

Scheme for the development of wasteland in Andhra Pradesh

2712. SHRI T. VENKATARAM REDDY :
SHRI S. PRATHAPA REDDY :

PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have prepared any Scheme for the development of waste-land in the State of Andhra Pradesh:

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the assistance provided to the State Government in this regard during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEELOPMENT) (COL. RAM SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Since its creation in July, 1992, the Department of Wastelands Development is implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Integrated Wastelands Development Project and Grants-in-Aid in various parts of the country including Andhra Pradesh. The main objective of Integrated Wasteland Development Project scheme is to augment availability of wood and non wood products specially fuelwood and fodder. Under this scheme projects are prepared on mocro watershed basis through the exercise of detailed micro planning carried out in active consultation with the total people. The scneme is being implemented mainly on non-forest wastelands. A similar scheme with the Little "Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project" is being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. However, this scheme is being implemented mainly on degraded forest lands. The main objective of Grants-in-Aid Scheme is to provide financial financial assistance to the voluntary agencies to carry out various activities for sustainable development of wastelands. These activities would include nursery raising, plantation, pasture development, awareness raising etc. Financial assistance is directly relased to the voluntary agencies.

(c) Fifteen projects have so far been sanctioned under Integrated Wasteland Development Project and Integrated Afforestation & Eco-Developmemt schemes. An assistance of Rs. 1.71 crores curing 1991-92. Rs. 1 02 crore during 1992-93 and Rs. 7.99 crore during 1993-94 has been released to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh under these projects.

Value of Assets Created under JRY

2713. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY :
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the value of assets which have been created by the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana during the last year;

(b) whether these assets are being properly maintained;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to modify the guidelines of JRY; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) The primary objective of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) is the generation of additional gainful employment for unemployed and underemployed persons in the rural areas and creation of assets is incidental to it. The expenditure incurred on assets created under JRY and not the value of assets created under the Yojana is monitored at the Government of India level. During the financial year 1993-94, an expenditure of Rs. 2742.40 crores was incurred on the creation of different types of assets under JRY.

(b) A maximum of 10% of the total allocation under JRY can be spent on the maintenance of assets created under JRY or under the erstwhile programmes of National Rural Employment Programme/Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme.

(c) and (d) On the basis of the experience gained during the implementation of wage employment programmes, certain changes were made during the year 1993-94 with regard to the utilisation of funds and effective functioning of JRY. The details of these changes are given in the Statement.